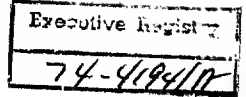


CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505



24 JUL 1974

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GAO

DDI-2224-74

The Honorable Elmer B. Staats
Comptroller General of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20548

Dear Elmer:

I have reviewed your request of 12 July 1974 for access to information produced by this Agency for use in a GAO review of the Government's role in East-West trade. I wish, of course, to be as responsive to your request as I can. My Associate Deputy Director for Intelligence, Paul V. Walsh, is transmitting under separate cover a collection of Agency publications, including those items you specifically identified and other of our intelligence publications which are concerned with the general question of East-West trade relations.

However, there are some aspects of your request to which we will be unable to respond. For example, the research for STR mentioned in item 2 is just getting underway, and it will be many months before we have any finished intelligence on this subject. Inasmuch as there is no requirement for US businessmen to report to the Government any technical agreements they may have negotiated with Communist countries, our information on this point is also limited. We will, however, be able to provide a publication on some agreements negotiated with the USSR.

I was pleased to note that your request shows an appreciation of the need to take adequate safeguards in protecting classified information. In this regard, I would like to suggest that when the members of your staff working on this review have completed their study that the publications be returned to this Agency. I would also like to take advantage of your offer to

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| downgrading and | |
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| Authority | |
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submit your draft study for review before it is finalized and have asked Mr. Walsh to make this known to Mr. Milgate. Our review, of course, will be only to ensure against undue disclosure of our classified materials.

If your representatives have additional questions about the materials we have provided, they may contact Mr. Walsh

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill

W. E. Colby
Director

CONCUR: 25X1A

[REDACTED]

24 JUL 1974

for Deputy Director for Intelligence

Date

ADDI/PVWalsh/tb (23 July 1974)

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